

HONORING LOCAL AND STATE FIRST RESPONDERS, AND THE CITIZENS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IN FACING THE SEVERE WINTER STORM OF DECEMBER 2 AND 3, 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 17, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, although much work is left to be done as our communities start to recover from the severe storms that ravaged Oregon and Washington on December 2 and 3, 2007, we can reflect and be grateful for the hard work of the thousands of our fellow Pacific Northwesterners who helped neighbors, families, and complete strangers during the storms and their aftermath. Without their efforts, the damage and loss of life from the storm may have been much more extensive.

We were all shocked by the devastating impact that these storms wreaked on Oregon. More than 10 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour period with wind gusts ranging from 60 to 129 miles an hour. Communities along the coast were inundated, families huddled in shelters as homes were destroyed and the coast was cut off from the rest of Oregon as roads and bridges were washed out. Among the stark reminders of the terrible power of these storms are crippled railroad tracks and bridges in Tillamook County, damage to the National Guard Armory in Dallas and the flooding of most of the town of Vernonia as well as other communities up and down the coast.

Thankfully, first responders and ordinary citizens moved quickly to help their fellow Oregonians cope with the storm. Rescuers in one case used chainsaws and dodged falling trees to clear the way for an ambulance. Two Tillamook men also risked their lives to try and save a woman whose truck went into the Nehalem River on Highway 101. These are just two of the numerous stories of bravery by first responders and Good Samaritans who stepped up to help those impacted by the storm. Selfless Oregonians from across the State came to help in what turned out to be a spectacular response effort. It has been incredible to see the extraordinary efforts of so many.

I want to personally thank everyone who was involved. Their heroic service to our communities has been extraordinary and their efforts are deeply appreciated. I also want to extend my deepest sympathy to those whose family, friends, and loved ones perished in the storms. It is a tragedy that these individuals were taken from us in these terrible storms. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING KIARA DELLE HARGROVE FOR RECEIVING THE MILKEN NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove,

an outstanding educator who has been selected to receive the Milken National Educator Award.

The Milken National Educator Award is given to outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and other education professionals. The recipients must demonstrate exceptional educational talent through their instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and the school. They must also represent themselves as leaders who engage and inspire students, colleagues, and the community.

Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove, a chemistry teacher at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, makes learning exciting by turning science experiments into competitions. She places importance on making sure her students are well-rounded individuals by integrating reading and writing strategies into her science lessons. She also differentiates instruction in order to teach a variety of academic levels at once. To ensure that students enter high school with the proper skills, Ms. Hargrove teaches remedial math and science study skills to incoming freshmen through the Summer Bridge Program, and serves as the ninth-grade advisor. As co-advisor of the Math Engineering and Science Association (MESA), she helps elevate the study of math and science among girls, especially African-Americans, at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School. Ms. Hargrove was chair of the School Improvement Team, is co-author of the School Improvement Plan, and has influenced many of her fellow teachers to go beyond traditional approaches to teaching.

Ms. Hargrove's love of her profession and the students that she teaches is evidenced by the energy she puts into her work and the achievements of her students. As someone who has been active and keenly interested in education policy throughout my professional life, I have the utmost respect for teachers like Ms. Hargrove; she represents the passion and commitment of so many others across Maryland and the Nation who are working extremely hard to educate our children. As we work to rewrite the No Child Left Behind Act, the Congress ought to be doing all it can to provide these dedicated men and women with a law and the resources to empower this commitment and passion.

Madam Speaker, I want to again offer congratulations to Ms. Kiara Delle Hargrove who has been recognized as an outstanding educator and will receive the Milken National Educator Award.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF DELAWARE, OHIO

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the community of Delaware, OH. Ohio Magazine recently named Delaware one of Ohio's Best Hometowns.

Praised for its small town atmosphere, eclectic character and friendly neighborhoods, Delaware is a charming place to call home. Kindness and hospitality are lifelong qualities of this community and its members.

As one of Ohio's fastest growing communities it's easy to see why Ohio Magazine has named it one of Ohio's Best Hometowns. Home of the Little Brown Jug, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the Central Ohio Symphony, Delaware has much to offer its residents and visitors alike. The blending of old and new has created an energetic and historic downtown while preserving the personality of small-town America.

I offer my congratulations to Mayor Windell Wheeler and the members of the Delaware community. All have produced a welcoming place for Central Ohioans to call home.

REMEMBERING HENRY HYDE

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, we are all saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde). He will be sorely missed not only by his fellow Members, but by the countless people who came in contact with him on a daily basis.

One such person is Mr. Bert Caswell, a guide with the Capitol Guide Service. I am including for the RECORD a poem written by Bert about the late Mr. Hyde, as well as a recent article from The Hill discussing his poetry. I hope all Members will take the time to read this poem and remember Henry Hyde.

SOMETHING'S, YOU CAN NOT HYDE?

Something's!  
You can not Hyde!  
That lives with us, so very deep down inside. . . throughout our lives!  
All in what we say and do!  
All in who we so touch. . . that make us a real who's who!  
As in our times, that which so comes into view!  
For it's all about how you so carry yourself, as when you rise!  
For it's all in what you so do, in others eyes, as your time upon this earth goes by!  
For these, are the things that which one can not Hyde!  
Fast breaking in our lives!  
To court our hearts, all in our part called life that which so defines!  
All in The Game of Life, you were so great Henry Hyde!  
Henry Hyde, was such The Man. . .  
Who upon the hardwood and on the floor of The House, did so boldly stand!  
All because of his great heart, and stance. . . and his gentle hand!  
From That Land of Lincoln. . .  
From one court of greatness to another, always thinking!  
As across the aisle he reached out his hand! Quiet in his calm and caring grace.  
For his service to God and Country he now so holds his place. . .  
And for all of those magnificent children, he did stand!  
Oh, Henry Hyde,  
You were, But The Man! For in you we can so understand!  
What it is to be a leader, a patriot, a family man. . . and God fearing man!  
Yes, In Life. . . Something's, You Just Can Not Hyde!

FOR THE RECORD  
(By Arie Dekker)

Congress's day-to-day proceedings and debates can be found immortalized in the official Congressional Record. The record's nearly 2,000 books, comprising more than 150 volumes, line the brick walls of the Senate Library and preserve the words of presidents, ambassadors, legislators and Bert Caswell, a 54-year-old Capitol tour guide from Baltimore.

Caswell may seem like an odd addition to the Record of floor speeches, inaugural addresses, scholarly essays and research studies. But his unflinching patriotism as captured in his accessible and unpretentious poetry is consistently submitted to honor America's diverse heroes.

"I never thought I was a writer," Caswell said. "I thought writing was punctuation and spelling, and I can't do either."

But when former Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) resigned from the Senate to run for president in 1996, Caswell was so moved that he wrote the poem "The Measure of a Man" in Dole's honor. After the poem was casually distributed around Capitol Hill, then-Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.) officially inserted it into The Congressional Record.

"And from that moment, my life was changed," Caswell said.

Caswell had written only two poems before and has since composed more than 500 in tribute to lawmakers, presidents, veterans, entertainers, athletes and others. About 20 of his poems have wound up in The Congressional Record, after having been submitted by members from both sides of the aisle.

In memory of Sean Taylor, the football star who was recently killed by intruders in his Miami home, Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-Fla.) submitted a new Caswell poem to the Record on Dec. 4 entitled "Taylor Made." Meek's spokesman Adam Sharon said Caswell and Meek talk as friends practically every day about their comings and goings. He said Meek is impressed with Caswell's "big heart" and willingness to go above and beyond his regular duties—not only writing poetry, but giving Capitol tours to special visitors like wounded veterans and children from the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"The congressman finds that extremely commendable," Sharon said.

Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) submitted a Caswell poem last month to honor Gunner Sgt. Angel Barcenas, a Marine whose legs were amputated last year after sustaining injuries in Iraq. Barcenas had previously served Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush on Marine One, and he recently led a group of Marines, police officers, and firefighters in a formation run to ground zero in New York City.

"Poetry has been a medium for not only documenting history but also upholding the principles that have made our nation great—principles such as courage, honor and perseverance," Sessions said in an e-mailed statement. "I applaud Bert for using his gift of poetry to honor America's bravest."

Listening to Caswell talk about his poetry is like taking a crash course in American history and culture. He has written about sports legends, political leaders, war veterans, firefighters, entertainers, civil rights leaders and Holocaust survivors.

"I write about heroes, people that inspire me," he said. "I really am impressed with the people who have power and fame, and yet they wield it and they make the world better. And that's what it's really all about."

Caswell's subjects include sports stars Steve Young, Cal Ripken Jr. and Mario Andretti; civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr.; reporter David Bloom; entertainers Bob Hope, Jason Alex-

ander and Tom Hanks; Congressional Gold Medal recipient Dorothy Height and former astronaut and Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio).

Caswell wears his patriotism on his sleeve. He makes an ideal tour guide, welcoming Capitol visitors with instant anecdotes about their home states' or cities' contributions to the greater national identity. He will seriously discuss their college sports teams' strengths and vulnerabilities, impersonate California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R), or crack jokes about the highest court in the land not being the Supreme Court, but rather a basketball court up the street.

Caswell has worked for the Capitol Guide Service for 21 years, although he did not plan it that way. As an all-American lacrosse star, he played on the national champion University of Maryland team in 1975. Before becoming a regular contributor to The Congressional Record, he was listed in NCAA record books as a top scorer at the 1975 Division I lacrosse tournament. He later coached the Maryland team for five years.

He earned two graduate degrees from Bowie State College, one in education and the other in administrative management. He then taught high school physical education and science for about 10 years.

In addition to being included in The Congressional Record, Caswell's poetry has been presented at official ceremonies and posted in government buildings. Several of his poems are posted in the amputee ward at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. One of his poems is on display in a memorial to the police officers who were killed when a gunman entered the Capitol in 1998 and opened fire.

"I see more in three months than most people see in a lifetime," Caswell said, drawing a connection between his job as a tour guide and his passion for writing about American heroism. He said working at the Capitol exposes him to people from around the world and also gives him a unique firsthand view of lawmakers, who he says are underappreciated for their service. He is currently compiling his poetry for a book that will include anecdotes about the many famous people he has encountered in Washington.

"I have had the privilege of getting to know Bert during my time in Congress," said Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.), who has inserted three of Caswell's poems into the Record this year. "As a Capitol Hill tour guide, [Caswell] is instrumental in sharing the rich history of our beautiful Capitol Building."

Caswell writes his poetry on a small laptop so he can write wherever and whenever inspiration strikes. His writing process is simple: He records what's on his mind, lets it sit for a while, and returns typically only once to double-check his work. He said the average poem takes no more than 30 minutes to complete.

"Mostly everything the first time comes out great," he said. "And then I go back and tweak it. Normally the first draft's pretty good."

He does not have a favorite poet or style of poetry. He actually avoids reading other poetry to keep his own work pure.

"I don't read other people's work, hardly, because I don't want it to change my words," Caswell said.

#### HONORING AND APPRECIATING AMERICA'S FIRE FIGHTERS

#### HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to

support H. Res. 695, a resolution calling for the creation of a "National Fire Fighter Appreciation Day". I introduced this legislation to celebrate and honor the brave men and women of America's fire departments. Since 1735, professional and volunteer fire fighters have been an invaluable facet of our communities, towns, and cities. Ever vigilant, this Nation's fire fighters respond quickly to emergencies of all kinds and protect and save lives each and every day. From the earliest days of Benjamin Franklin's Union Fire Company to the famous fire departments of New York City, Chicago, and Boston, every fire station in this country has a proud history and tradition of distinguished service. Today, over one million fire fighters answer the call of duty and perform extraordinary acts of selflessness and valor without hesitation.

In my district alone, the Orange County Fire Authority serves 22 cities with approximately 1,000 fire fighting personnel protecting over one million residents. Southern California's beautiful, yet volatile environment is prone to natural disasters, flash floods, and wildfires. Every year, Orange County fire fighters place themselves on the front lines of these disasters and tirelessly work day and night to rescue endangered residents and prevent damage to cities and land. Recently, we watched as these fire fighters joined those from several other southwestern states to successfully battle the wildfires that raged across Southern California in October. I commend the tremendous bravery of Orange Country fire fighters and am proud to honor each one today on the Floor of the House.

As internal and external threats facing this country change constantly, the role of the fire fighter has also modified and expanded. Not only do fire fighters defend our homes and buildings from fire, the highly trained personnel of the fire department provide emergency medical services, hazardous material response, special rescue response, and terrorism response. Whether it be a daring rescue of a family trapped in a burning house, preventing a forest fire from spreading, responding to the scene of an accident, or providing medical assistance at the location of a terrorist attack, fire fighters significantly impact the lives of Americans every day. And, in some cases, fire fighters have paid the ultimate price and given their lives to protect their surrounding communities. We will never forget these fallen heroes.

In light of the exceptional service of fire fighters across this nation and with full recognition and great respect of their quiet courage and valor, I ask that you join me in support of this resolution to express the desire of the House of Representatives for the establishment of a "National Fire Fighter Appreciation Day" to be observed annually. While we can never thank these men and women enough, this proposed national day of honor is a fitting tribute to those that keep sentinel watch over our lives and property.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to honor America's fire fighters today.